

PROPOSED NEW CLAIMS (21 to 23)

18. A pen-based computing device for accessing secure data, the pen-based computing device having a casing, the pen-based computing device including at least one fingerprint sensor for capturing a user thumbprint image of a user hand, the fingerprint sensor being positioned at a fingerprint sensor site in the casing of the pen-based computing device;

whereby placement of the fingerprint sensor site in the casing of the pen-based computing device enables an incidental capture of the thumbprint image of the user hand for purposes of identity authentication prior to each request to access the secure data; and

whereby placement of the fingerprint sensing site in the casing of the pen-based computing device enables capture of the thumbprint image of the user hand holding the pen-based computing device; and

whereby placement of the fingerprint sensing site in the casing of the pen-based computing device enables a continuous capture of the thumbprint image of the user hand while the pen-based computing device is being held.

21 (New). The pen-based computing device of Claim 18, wherein the pen-based computing device includes a processor and a stylus, the processor having a display screen, the fingerprint sensor site being disposed in the casing of the processor.

22 (New). The pen-based computing device of Claim 18, wherein the pen-based computing device includes a processor and a stylus, the processor having a display screen, the fingerprint sensor site being disposed in the casing of the stylus.

23 (New). The pen-based computing device of Claim 18, wherein the pen-based computing device includes a wallet or a pouch, the wallet or pouch being in digital engagement with the pen-based computing device, the fingerprint sensor being disposed in the casing of the wallet or pouch.